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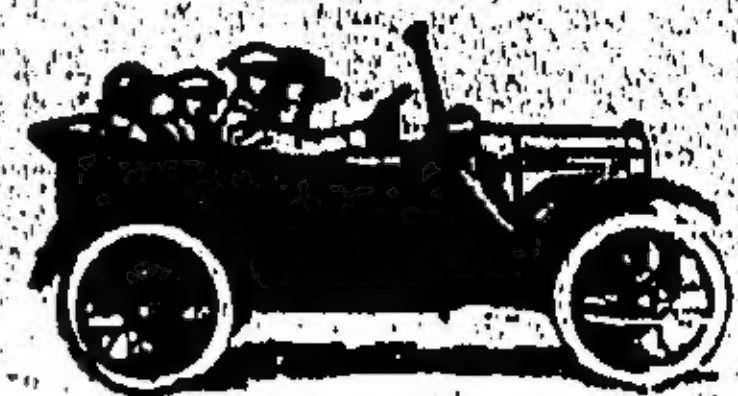
# China Mail

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THE AUSTIN SEVEN



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No. 19,464 三拜禮 號八月四年五十二百九千一英 HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1925.

日六十月三丑乙未年 十四國民華中 PRICE, \$3.00 Per Month.

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## "MAGIC TRANSFORMATION." HOTEL DIRECTORS' POLICY ENDORSED. TO-DAY'S ANNUAL MEETING.

### Rumours Regarding Management Changes.

Rumours of a contemplated change in the Managing Directorship were referred to by a shareholder at to-day's meeting of the Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Ltd., and he was assured that no such change had been considered. A year of uphill work was reported and the shareholders approved the report which was described by the seconder as being one of achievements requiring organising power of the highest order.

Mr. J. H. Taggart, Managing Director, presided over the meeting, and supporting him were the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Kt., C.M.G., the Hon. P. H. Holyoak, Mr. J. Scott Harston and Mr. E. M. Raymond, Directors; Mr. W. J. Hawker, A.C.I.S., Assistant General Manager, Mr. J. Baythorpe, C.A., Acting Secretary; also the following shareholders, among others:—Messrs. Fung Tat-hing, A. W. Smith, J. P. Bourne, J. E. Mackenzie, J. T. Ingram, Lau Shiu-chuen, H. J. H. White, U. M. Omar, Tang Ching-ong, Joseph Gould, Poon Sui-fung, H. Gittins, T. N. Chau, Yi Ping-lau, Ip Wing-cho, W. H. Brown, Lam Shiu-ling, Ko Leong-ho, F. Ellis, Tang Chi-hin, L. A. Tobias, H. S. Bennett, Felix M. Ellis, W. E. Van Epps, Chan Yik-fung, R. L. Bridger, M. J. Cox, T. G. Sinclair, O. Kitchell, Chan Tung-shan, C. M. Henley, T. R. Parsons, O. R. Benson, G. R. Lummett, P. M. N. da Silva, H. Birkett, A. A. Alves, Rev. Father Robert, E. Abraham, Ng Siu-sun, E. E. Ellis, Tang Hang-ka, W. J. Carroll and A. G. W. Ogilvie.

Those present represented 223,336 shares.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen.—The accounts and directors' report having been in your hands for the prescribed period conforming with the Companies' Ordinances, I will, with your permission, follow established procedure and take the same as read.

The report of the auditors is as follows:—

"We have audited the above accounts and balance sheet with the books and documents of the Hotel Office and the accounts and balance sheet of the Shanghai branch rendered by Messrs. Thomson & Co. certified by them as correct. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such balance sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company."

PERCY SMITH, SETH & FLEMING, Auditors.  
Hongkong, 23rd March, 1925.

Before I proceed to review the affairs of the undertaking and to report to you on the results of the business during the past financial year, I desire to place on record the irreparable loss sustained by the Company in the death on the 21st of May last of the Hon. Mr. A. R. Lowe. The late Mr. Lowe, whom to know was to esteem, never failed to give to this Company the full benefit of his wide and valuable experience, and in the deliberations of your Board his advice—based, as it was, upon knowledge of a varied and practical nature—not only commanded respect but was influential in a great measure in placing the Company in the sound position which it has attained in recent years. It is therefore with a sense of the profoundest regret at his death that I make this reference, inasmuch as this sad event not only deprived the Colony of a public spirited and able councillor but also removed from our midst, at an all too early age, a figure whose genial manner and kindly disposition endeared him to all with whom he came into contact.

The Accounts.  
Turning to the accounts for the year 1924, you will observe that the net credit balance of profit and loss account amounted to \$855,082.52, as against \$1,068,790.15 in respect of the year 1923. Deducting therefrom for the purpose of comparison, the amounts respectively brought forward to 1924 and the preceding year, the relative net figures are \$769,844.87, and \$1,048,078.05, showing a decrease of \$278,233.18 for the past year. In making such comparison, however, I desire to point out that the profit for the

## DANGER TO MOTORISTS.

### BOY'S PEA SHOOTER PRANK.

### SPANKING BY MOTHER.

A small Chinese boy was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Central Magistracy this morning for discharging a bamboo pea-shooter at a motor car.

Mr. Thomas Arnold, assistant at the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., stated in evidence that he was travelling in a motor car with his father along Boaham Road yesterday afternoon on the way to Pokfulam. On nearing High Street, two small boys got ready and deliberately discharged their pea-shooters, the pellets leaving their mark on the body of the car. The driver stopped the car and one of the boys, the defendant, was seized, the other making his escape.

The boy pleaded that he did not intentionally shoot at the car as he was at the time engaged in directing his aim at a bird.

On an undertaking given by the

## JUNGLE ROMANCE.

### BRITISH NORTH BORNEO FACTS.

### "WILD MAN" FABLE.

### Hongkong's Interesting Visitor Interviewed.

The expression "Wild Man of Borneo" is probably the first thing Hongkong people think of in connection with the British protectorate of North Borneo, a prominent representative of which is at present on a visit to the Colony.

Hongkong's connection with British North Borneo, apart from representation here by agents of the Chartered Company which administers the territory, is limited to the presence of a few Chinese firms financially interested in trade there. However there is a romantic sound about the words North Borneo which impelled a "China Mail" reporter to seek an interview with the Colony's distinguished visitor.

In the interior jungles of North Borneo there are believed to be vestiges of cannibalism, head hunters and tribes who employ the deadly blowpipe, our representative remarked to the Hon.

Mountstuart Elphinstone, Managing Director of the Chartered Company, responsible for the government of North Borneo, whom he saw for a few moments in the offices of Gibb, Livingston and Co., Ltd., the local agents.

Mr. Elphinstone, of fine physique and sunburnt of countenance, might very well have been one whose life is spent in the open facing continually threatening dangers such as these, but he hastened to disillusion the reporter, and smilingly assured him that even in the interior one might almost expect anything with the exception of cannibalism or headhunting, and life at places such as Sandakan and Jesselton was along safe lines as it was at Hongkong.

Asked if he would compare, say, the social activities of Hongkong with North Borneo, Mr. Elphinstone said that the British population here being more or less together, much more could obviously be arranged in that direction in Hongkong than could in the protectorate, but considering that there were only a matter of four hundred white people in North Borneo this side of life was quite quite well looked after.

The idea most people get from the expression "the wild man of Borneo" is quite a false one, said Mr. Elphinstone in reply to another question. "The native of Borneo is not a bad type. The derivation of the expression was no doubt due, he remarked, to the numbers of orang-outangs found there."

Of this far jungle land on the fringe of the China sea little is known save in the circle of those personally interested in it. As a rule it is pictured as a country of wild man, dense forests and pestilential fevers. The wild men, so authorities inform us, are to be found in the persons of peaceable and childlike natives and the forests are there but the climate is said to be, for the tropics, exceptionally healthy. The drawback would appear to be in the absence of hill stations where the hard-working, the weary and worn-out may recuperate and the less hard-working, less weary less worn-out may repair for a pleasant holiday.

Borneo owes much of its present comparative security to James Brooke who visited the island in 1840 and found the north and west coasts in a condition of wretchedness and anarchy. With ten of the English crew of his ship the Royalist he joined with the Rajah of Sarawak in the suppression of piracy. The modern history of North Borneo may be said to have commenced in 1846 when the British Government entered into a treaty with the Sultan of Brunei, wherein it is recited that their desire was "to encourage commerce between Her Majesty's subjects and the subjects of the independent rulers of the eastern seas and to put an end to piracies which have hitherto obstructed that commerce."

### TWO MONTHS' JAIL.

### MAN WHO LURED AWAY A GIRL.

A Chinese postman employed at the Kowloon Post Office was charged at the Kowloon Magistracy yesterday with receiving and harbouring a seventeen-year old Chinese girl without the consent of her parents.

Mr. R. A. D. Forrest, of the Secretariat for Chinese Affairs prosecuted, and Mr. D. McCallum appeared for the defence.

The girl's mother stated that she made a report to the Secretariat whether daughter had not returned after leaving the house on March 10. A week later witness was directed to a house at Shamshoipo where the girl was found.

On the case being resumed this morning after an adjournment, the defendant was sentenced to two months' hard labour.

## FANLING GOLF COURSE.

It will be noted in the advertisement columns that the Royal Hongkong Golf Club announce that owing to the heavy rain the new course at Fanling will be closed from to day and that if it should be possible to open the course on Sunday or Monday notices will be posted. While the new course is closed ladies are to be permitted to play on the old course starting after men have driven off and giving way to men's games.

### THANKS.

Mr. L. M. Whyte, of Donnelly and White, Hon. Sec. and Treas. of the local branch of the Navy League, has received a letter from the head offices of the Navy League acknowledging the receipt of \$500 which is Hongkong's donation towards the Overseas Relief Fund, collected at the Flag Day held in Hongkong on Nelson's Day last year.

The General Secretary, in acknowledging the sum terms it a very handsome one for which they express their sincere and grateful thanks.

### MOTOR ACCIDENT.

A motor car knocked down a Chinese near the east gate of the Taikeo Docks yesterday. The man was seriously injured and had to be taken to the Government Civil Hospital. The police have detained the driver of the motor car.

### SHANGHAI QUOTATIONS.

The following—Mildly supplied by Messrs. J. G. & Co. were the closing quotations on the Shanghai market this morning:

Long 100 1/2, 100 1/4, 100 1/8, 100 1/16, 100 1/32, 100 1/64, 100 1/128, 100 1/256, 100 1/512, 100 1/1024, 100 1/2048, 100 1/4096, 100 1/8192, 100 1/16384, 100 1/32768, 100 1/65536, 100 1/131072, 100 1/262144, 100 1/524288, 100 1/1048576, 100 1/2097152, 100 1/4194304, 100 1/8388608, 100 1/16777216, 100 1/33554432, 100 1/67108864, 100 1/134217728, 100 1/268435456, 100 1/536870912, 100 1/1073741824, 100 1/2147483648, 100 1/4294967296, 100 1/8589934592, 100 1/17179869184, 100 1/34359738368, 100 1/68719476736, 100 1/137438953472, 100 1/274877906944, 100 1/549755813888, 100 1/1099511627776, 100 1/2199023255552, 100 1/4398046511104, 100 1/8796093022208, 100 1/17592186044416, 100 1/35184372088832, 100 1/70368744177664, 100 1/140737488355328, 100 1/281474976710656, 100 1/562949953421312, 100 1/1125899906842624, 100 1/2251799813685248, 100 1/4503599627370496, 100 1/9007199254740992, 100 1/18014398509481984, 100 1/36028797018963968, 100 1/72057594037927936, 100 1/144115188075855872, 100 1/288230376151711744, 100 1/576460752303423488, 100 1/1152921504606846976, 100 1/2305843009213693952, 100 1/4611686018427387904, 100 1/9223372036854775808, 100 1/18446744073709551616, 100 1/36893488147419103232, 100 1/73786976294838206464, 100 1/147573952589676412928, 100 1/295147905179352825856, 100 1/590295810358705651712, 100 1/1180591620717411303424, 100 1/2361183241434822606848, 100 1/4722366482869645213696, 100 1/9444732965739290427392, 100 1/18889465931478580854784, 100 1/37778931862957161709568, 100 1/75557863725914323419136, 100 1/151115727451828646838272, 100 1/302231454903657293676544, 100 1/604462909807314587353088, 100 1/1208925819614629174706176, 100 1/2417851639229258349412352, 100 1/4835703278458516698824704, 100 1/9671406556917033397649408, 100 1/19342813113834066795298816, 100 1/38685626227668133590597632, 100 1/77371252455336267181195264, 100 1/154742504910672534362390528, 100 1/309485009821345068724781056, 100 1/618970019642690137449562112, 100 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SEA AND DANUBE PORTS.REDUCED PASSAGE RATES TO BRINDISI, VENICE  
OR TRIESTE.

£36.

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OUTWARD FOR SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA, KOBE &amp; MOJI.

S.S. "DUCHESSE D'AOSTA" ... Sails about 12th April.  
S.S. "SILVIO PELLICO" (cargo only) ... Sails about 18th April.

HOMEWARD FOR BRINDISI, VENICE AND TRIESTE.

S.S. "PERSIA" ... Sails hence on or about 13th April.  
S.S. "DUCHESSE D'AOSTA" ... Sails about 3rd May.

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ALASKA MARU ... Friday, 10th Apr.  
RIO DE JANEIRO, SANTOS, VITORIA LINES—Via Saigon, Singapore, Colombo, Durrat & Capricorn.  
HAWAII MARU ... Saturday, 11th Apr.  
MEXICO MARU ... Wednesday, 20th May  
SUNAMARA MARU ... Monday, 30th Apr.  
BANGKOK—Direct  
RUSHO MARU ... Friday, 1st May.  
ALOUTTA—Via Singapore and Bangkok  
SEATTLE MARU ... Sunday, 16th Apr.  
OTONIA, SEATTLE, PACOMA & YAKOWITZ—Via Shanghai and Japan Ports.  
HAWAII MARU ... Sunday, 17th May  
HAIPHONG via HOIHOW and PAKHOI  
TAKIWA MARU ... Friday, 17th April  
J.A. PORT  
AKA MARU ... Thursday, 8th April  
CELESTIA MARU ... Tuesday, 2nd April  
ANDRA MARU ... Wednesday, 2nd April  
ESKILUNG via SWATOW & AMOY  
HICAN MARU ... Sunday, 13th April, at 2 p.m.  
SAJO MARU ... Sunday, 19th April, at 2 p.m.  
TAKAO via SWATOW & AMOY  
KITA MARU ... Thursday, 8th April, at 10 a.m.  
ASAO and KIKIHO  
RATVIA MARU ... Tuesday, 21st Apr.  
DAIKIN via GUERPO and TIENTSIN  
NANKING MARU ... Friday, 10th Apr.  
For further particulars please apply to:—  
OSAKA SHOEN KAISHA.  
M. TAKEMOTO Manager.  
Central 4084, 4086, 4091

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Hankow: 44, Cross Street, General, Hongkong. Tel. Kowloon No. 2.

## SPORTS CABLES.

## NECK AND NECK.

RANGERS COME TO TOP  
AT LAST.

## SCOTTISH LEAGUE.

(Reuter's Service.)

GLASGOW, April 7.

Results in the Scottish League  
football matches played to-day  
(home team given first) are as  
follows:—Rangers..... 2 Aberdeen..... 0  
St. Mirren..... 1 Airdrie..... 0As will be seen in the accom-  
panying League table, Rangers  
take first place through their  
victory and Airdrie's defeat. The  
famous Glasgow team have been  
third and, latterly, second, in the  
League struggle. Freed from Cup  
worries since they were knocked  
out, they are probably concentrat-  
ing on the League. Each team will  
play 38 matches. The result is  
not likely to be decided till the  
last day of the season. St.Johnstone, who were promoted  
last year, will have a good deal to  
say as they will meet the two lead-  
ing teams, once each, at the end.  
Rangers' remaining fixtures are v.  
Third Lanark (H), v. Motherwell  
(A) and v. St. Johnstone (A).Airdrieonians have to play Raith  
Rovers (A), Hibernians (H) and  
St. Johnstone (A). At present  
Rangers have a very slight lead on  
goal average in addition to their  
one valuable point.(St. Mirren's win puts them  
quite clear of the relegation  
bugbear. Aberdeen are quite, if  
not absolutely, safe. To be  
relegated they must lose their  
remaining three fixtures very  
heavily and Queen's Park, the  
second last team in the table,  
must win their last three matches  
by fair margins.)Below will be found the League  
table inclusive of all matches to  
date:—Goals:  
P. W. L. D. F. A. Pts.  
Rangers..... 35 23 3 9 69 23 55  
Airdrieonians 35 24 5 6 83 31 54  
Hibernians..... 37 22 7 8 78 41 52  
Celtic..... 35 17 11 7 70 43 41  
Partick T..... 35 14 11 10 58 54 38  
Cowdenbeath 35 17 14 10 73 55 37  
Dundee..... 35 14 14 7 45 40 35  
St. Mirren..... 35 15 16 4 58 61 34  
Raith R..... 34 11 14 9 49 55 33  
Hamilton A..... 35 15 18 3 52 57 33  
Aberdeen..... 35 11 14 10 44 50 33  
Hearts..... 35 11 14 11 60 54 33  
St. Johnstone 35 10 14 11 52 64 31  
Morton..... 35 11 15 9 41 63 31  
Kilmarnock..... 35 10 16 9 47 63 29  
Motherwell..... 35 10 16 9 53 59 29  
Third Lanark 35 10 18 8 47 60 28  
Falkirk..... 35 10 17 8 41 49 28  
Queen's Park 35 10 18 7 43 68 27  
Ayr United..... 35 9 19 8 41 55 26

## AN ESSENTIAL OF HEALTH

is regular daily elimination from the  
system of its waste materials. No diet  
of the simple law is the commonest  
cause of inefficiency, sickness and mental  
depression. To dispel constipation no  
thing is better than Pinkettes. A gently

## PINKETTES

as nature these dainty little laxatives  
into a regularity, banish bilious attacks  
and sick headaches, stimulate the liver,  
purify the blood, clear the skin. They  
also quickly relieve a film. If constipation  
or post free, address personal, from Dr.  
Williams Medicine Co., 60 Kingston  
Road, Shanghai.

PINKETTES KEEP YOU WELL.

## ARMS SEARCHES.

## HIDDEN REVOLVER

## INCIDENT.

## PROMPT POLICE ACTION.

Alleged to have a revolver  
hidden on his person, a Chinese  
was rounded up by a search patrol  
on Monday night.Prompt action by the police  
officers prevented any alarm-  
ing incident. A European ser-  
geant, a Chinese plain-clothes  
constable, two Indian officers,  
formed the party, which set  
out and searched tram passengers  
and pedestrians coming from  
Causeway Bay towards town.Near Wellington Barrack, they  
had reason to suspect a group of  
three men, two of whom made off  
and escaped in the darkness. The  
third was held up and it is  
alleged, a revolver or pistol was  
found on him. This man was  
taken in custody to the Criminal  
Intelligence Department for  
inquiries to be made.

## RESISTED POLICE.

Two members of the crew of the  
Government steam launch Victoria  
were charged before Mr. E. W.  
Hamilton at the Kowloon Magis-  
tracy this morning with resisting a  
search for arms by two Chinese  
detectives at Waterloo Road at 7.30  
p.m. yesterday.Evidence was given to show that  
the defendants refused to  
comply with the demand for a  
search. On being told that the  
searchers were detectives, the men  
claimed to be exempted from such  
searches on the ground that they  
were also Government servants.They adopted a truculent attitude,  
and had to be taken to the Police  
Station.

Fines of \$10 were imposed.

## INDIANS CHARGED.

Before Mr. McBridey at the  
Central Magistracy yesterday, two  
Indians named Bachan Singh  
(watchman) and Baksish Singh  
(motor car driver) were charged  
with unlawful possession of a  
revolver. The accused were re-  
presented by Mr. H. J. Armstrong  
and Mr. H. S. Fitzroy (instructed  
by Messrs. Lee and Russ) respec-  
tively. After the evidence of  
two motor drivers from the Central  
Fire Station the case was  
adjourned.

## CHURCH NOTICES.

A CHARGE OF THE DOLLAR  
14 MADE P.M. ALL NOTICES  
UNDER THIS HEADING.St. Andrew's Church, Nathan  
Road, Kowloon.

## GOLD FRIDAY, 10th April.

11 a.m. Morning Prayer  
Preacher: Rev. E. K. Quirk M.A.  
"The Story of the Cross" will be sung.  
6 p.m. Evening Prayer  
Preacher: Rev. Geo. E. Arrowsmith  
M.A.  
SATURDAY, EASTER EVEN, 11th April.  
6 p.m. Preparation Services for Easter  
Communion.

## EASTER DAY.

Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m., 8.15  
a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
11 a.m. Morning Prayer  
Preacher: The Vicar.  
6.5 a.m. United Sunday School  
Service.  
3 p.m. Bible Classes.  
6 p.m. Evening Prayer.  
Preacher: The Vicar.  
Anthem—  
"They have taken away my Lord."  
(Stainer)

## LATEST SHIPPING NEWS.

## ARRIVALS.

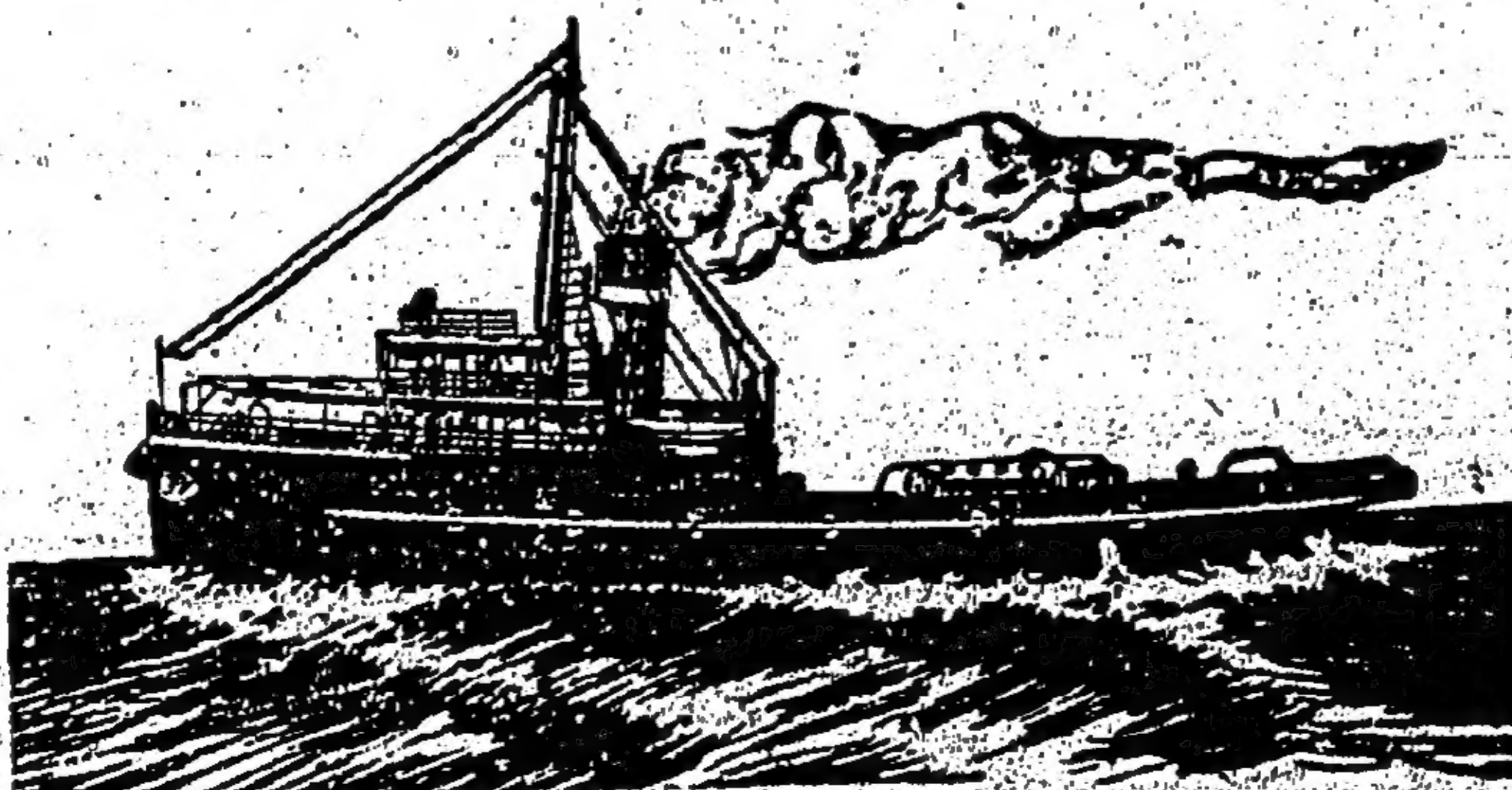
Teucer, (Br.) B. & S., from New  
York, Shanghai,  
Shantung, (Br.) B. & S., from  
Shanghai, Amoy.Ying Chow, (Br.) B. & S., from  
Tientsin, Swatow.  
Ho Sang, (Br.) J. M. & Co., from  
Calcutta, Singapore.Tak Sang, (Br.) J. M. & Co., from  
Shanghai, Swatow.  
Bowes Castle, (Br.) Dodwell &  
Co., New York, Shanghai.Pt. Jackson, (Amer.) A. O. Line,  
from Seattle, Shanghai.  
Matto, (Nor.) Thoresen & Co.,  
from Saigon.Torny, (Nor.) Dodwell & Co.,  
from Chinwangtao.  
Gokensan Maru, (Jap.) Y.K.K.,  
from Samurida.Kashima Maru, (Jap.) N.Y.K.,  
from Yokohama, Shanghai.  
Altai Maru, (Jap.) O.S.K., from  
Saigon.Fao Lee, (Chi.) Shun Tai Hong,  
from Dairen, Chefoo.  
Fong Hong, (Chi.) Sau Fong  
Hong, from Saigon.

## DEPARTURES.

Fooshing, (Br.) J. M. & Co., for  
Shanghai, Swatow.  
Botnia (Nor.) K. Larssen, for  
Saigon.Lorestan, (Br.) Fook Tai Cheung,  
for Saigon.  
Kashima Maru, (Jap.) N. Y. K.,  
for London, Singapore.Bowes Castle, (Br.) Dodwell &  
Co., for New York, Iloilo.  
Lushan Maru, (Jap.) N. Y. K., for  
Canton.Hai Nam, (Port.) Kwong O for  
Kwan-chow-wan.  
Taki Maru, (Jap.) Sato & Co.,  
for Keelung.Tosei Maru, (Jap.) M.B.K., Co.  
for Keelung.  
Tonger, (Br.) K. Larssen, for  
Bangkok.Hsin Wah, (Chi.) C. M. S. N., &  
for Shanghai.  
Pt. Jackson, (Amer.) A. O. Line,  
for Manila.City of Bombay, (Br.) Bank Line,  
for New York, Manila.Peking, April 7.—The late Sun  
Yat-sen's family and the leading  
members of the Kuomintang are  
proceeding to the South to-morrow,  
leaving Li Shih-tseng to look  
after Sun Yat-sen's shrine in the  
Western Hills. The party are  
proceeding to Nanking to pre-  
pare the site on the Purple Moun-  
tain for Sun Yat-sen's last resting-  
place.—Courtesy of the "Daily  
Bulletin."Shanghai, April 7.—Tan Hoo-  
ming, ex-Military Governor of  
Kuangsi, was murdered yesterday  
morning at his residence in the  
French Concession. According  
to the police, Tan Hoo-ming was  
sitting at breakfast, when a  
servant, who had been in his  
employ eight years, is alleged to  
have approached him from behind  
and fired a revolver three times,  
one of the shots proving fatal.The noise attracted the police,  
who, it is reported, found the  
servant attempting to commit  
suicide, having wounded himself,  
and he was taken to hospital.The motive for the crime is obscure  
and there is no evidence of any  
political significance.—Courtesy  
of the Daily Bulletin.HOW IT GAINED A GOOD  
REPUTATION.The way to gain a good reputation is  
to be what you appear. That is pre-  
cisely how Chamberlain's Cough  
Remedy has gained its reputation, as a  
cure for coughs, colds, croup and  
bronchial trouble. Every bottle of this  
valued medicine is fully up to the high  
standard of excellence claimed for it.  
For sale everywhere.

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searchlight and all modern appliances for Salvage Work.

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E/India May 13 May 18 E/Montreal May 18 June 5

E/Canada May 13 June 1 E/Scotland June 10 June 17

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May 7 May 26 Apr. 23 May 12

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Published by  
The Newspaper Enterprise, Ltd.  
Printers & Publishers  
No. 5, WYNDHAM ST., HONGKONG

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Advertising Agency (London),  
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## WEDDING.

The wedding of Mr. D. E. Morgan and Miss E. M. Smith will take place at the Wesleyan Church at 4 p.m., on Saturday, 11th. No invitations are being issued and there will not be a reception. Friends are however invited to the Church.

## BIRTH.

HANCOCK.—At Woking, Surrey, England, on April 6, the wife of H. C. R. Hancock, of a son.

Hongkong, Wednesday, April, 1925.

## LOSE NO TIME!

Hongkong owes so much to the enterprise and foresight of its early pioneers that to denounce their shortcomings now savours almost of ingratitude. Yet it cannot be denied that in one respect at least they were woefully remiss. They made no provision for the growth of the city, with the result that to-day we lament the lack of those "lungs" which are so vital to the well-being of the community. Not a hundred years ago open spaces aplenty could have been marked out with a lavish hand. To-day they are almost impossible to find. However even now it is not altogether too late for something to be done. Kowloon at least is not so crowded that suitable spaces cannot be found to serve as recreation grounds for the children. There is no need to dwell upon the urgent necessity for these spaces. Both Dr. Macgowan and Dr. Koch at yesterday afternoon's meeting of the Sanitary Board made out a case which will admit of no gainsaying. You cannot expect to have healthy children unless they are able to spend as much as possible in the fresh air. The providing of the necessary open spaces is a duty of the community—in other words of those who are set above us as the Colony's rulers. Other governments have fully accepted their responsibilities in this respect, but the Hongkong Government has been largely backward. The time has now come when it must bestir itself. The resolution moved by Dr. Macgowan yesterday afternoon and seconded by Dr. Koch has the fullest support of the public, and although the Chairman of the Sanitary Board may have had doubts as to whether the matter came within the scope of the Board, the public has no doubts that, whatever department is chiefly concerned, the matter is essentially one for the Government. Therefore our rulers cannot take action too quickly. Otherwise, as we have suggested, they will soon find that they are too late—too late to give the children of the Colony even a small part of their heritage.

## Trade Exhibitions.

A report was recently made to the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce upon the value to Hongkong of the British Industries Fair held in London. The report does not appear to have been made public. A number of Conventions and Trade Exhibitions are being held this and following years some of which doubtless the Hongkong Chamber deems of some interest to the trade of Hongkong. Seattle's Convention is to be held in June next and it will be remembered that Seattle businessmen deemed it of sufficient importance to send delegates to such places as Hongkong. The local Chamber promised that if no delegate to the Convention is available from Hongkong, the Chamber would arrange, "if possible," to be represented by a member of a business house in Seattle or Vancouver, having Hongkong connections. It would be interesting to know if one or the other has been done. Assuming there is likely to be trade exhibits at this Convention, it seems natural to suggest that the most effective way would have been to have sent a qualified representative with samples of the goods usually dealt with in Hongkong. A New Zealand and South Seas International Exhibition is to take place in Dunedin in November next. The value of the Exhibition is to be a serious matter, suggesting that it is of a serious

thing and of considerable importance. How far the Colony is interested in products from this part of the world, it is for experts to say. In 1927 a Canadian Exposition is announced to be held in Vancouver, B.C. Here no one will question the statement that the Colony should be directly represented. It is to be the first great world exposition ever held in Canada and one idea is to bring East and West together at a central point. Such Expositions as these serve as excellent recruiting grounds to gain increased trade connections, and where their value is unquestioned, direct representation at them is to be encouraged.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### HONGKONG EDUCATION.

(To the Editor of the China Mail).

Sir,—From a purely business man's point of view, I think that value is certainly not obtained for the money spent on education in this Colony. There is something palpably wrong somewhere. Perhaps an expert can tell us where.

Yours, etc.,

L.S.D. & C.

Hongkong, April 8.

### ARMS SEARCHES.

(To the Editor of the China Mail).

Sir,—East week a correspondent had the temerity to put in print some pronounced views on the subject of searching for arms in the streets. I would also like to add my own experiences but meanwhile, will others come forward so that I may ascertain if what happened to me was exceptional? I do not want their names, times, places, etc., but just a brief outline of their views. Those who sponsored the meeting but let it fall through are asked to note.

Yours, etc.,

ONCE BIT.

Hongkong, April 7.

### QUERY.

(To the Editor of the China Mail).

Sir,—Can any of your readers tell me how the game of stoolball, also referred to as women's cricket, is played?

Yours, etc.,

Q.

Hongkong, April 8.

### THOSE PLAYGROUNDS.

(To the Editor of the China Mail).

Sir,—The resolution in favour of a children's playground at Kowloon was carried—"four being in favour and none against." This means that whilst the Unofficial members of the board voted, the officials did not—doubtless taking their cue from the Chairman. Again is demonstrated either the indifference of the Official mind or its unwillingness to retard possible promotion or subject itself to possible recrimination from those high up in office. A pretty pass surely!

Yours, etc.,

OBSERVER.

Hongkong, April 8.

### FORGED LABELS?

### TOOTH BRUSH MARK PROSECUTIONS.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Central Magistracy this morning, the managers of three Chinese department stores in Des Voeux Road Central were charged with infringing the Prophylactic trade mark in respect of tooth brushes and applying false trade descriptions.

Mr. G. S. Hugh Jones (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the prosecution.

The first case was against the Tai Yau Company. Mr. M. K. Lo, for the defence, applied for an adjournment and for permission to see the boxes of tooth brushes which had been seized by the police under a warrant. The case was formally adjourned till next Wednesday morning.

The Tin Suen Company, another of the defendant firms, was not represented by counsel. His Worship, in adjourning the case for the same date, remarked to the manager that it would be more satisfactory if he were represented by counsel at the next hearing.

In respect of the last case against the Chen Kwong Company, Mr. Hugh Jones applied for permission to withdraw the charge as he said that the defendants had entered into an undertaking not to import any more goods with the forged labels. The application was allowed.

### BRONCHIAL COUGHS.

Bronchial coughs are very trying. They are even more so if allowed to drag on and weaken the system. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is just what you want to take for bronchial coughs and croupy coughs. It contains no opiates and is pleasant to take. It is a powerful lung and throat cleanser and loosens the mucus. Sold everywhere.

## "BETTER ORGANISED."

### CONSTRUCTION WORK IN HONGKONG.

#### HOPEFUL OUTLOOK.

#### TO-DAY'S COMPANY MEETING.

Questions the object of which was to restore public confidence in and support of the Hongkong Engineering and Construction Co., Ltd., were put at to-day's annual meeting of that concern.

Mr. R. G. Shewan presided over the meeting, others present being the Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Mr. J. Scott Harston, the Very Rev. Father L. Robert; Mr. S. G. Cook, A.S.A.A., Secretary; Mr. L. Gain, Manager; and the following shareholders—Messrs. Fung Tat-hang, J. P. Braga, Li Po-chun, J. Coulthart, A. A. Alves.

#### CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days and, with your permission, we will dispense with the reading of them now.

At our meeting last year, I referred to certain contracts with the Hongkong Government, which were causing losses, and I said that the difficulties encountered had been overcome and work was proceeding more satisfactorily.

This was true at that time, as we had succeeded, after long and difficult negotiations, in placing upon a proper basis our arrangements for the supply of labour and materials, and had good reason to hope that the worst was over.

The engineer formerly in charge of these contracts had previously been called upon for an explanation of various matters connected therewith, and, as he could give no satisfactory answers to the questions put to him, he was dismissed from the Company's service and subsequently left the Colony. It was discovered that the engineer in question had made commitments (without the sanction or knowledge of the Directors) in a most reckless manner and apparently without regard to the ultimate outcome of the contracts, and it was not an easy matter to arrive at a satisfactory understanding with the parties concerned.

As time went on, however, it became apparent that the estimates of our late engineer upon which the tenders in connection with the contracts above referred to were based, were made out on far too low a basis to lead to anything but severe loss, quite apart from the initial losses and despite the economies we had effected.

As soon as we realised this, which was about the middle of 1924, we placed our case before the Government, and were informed that any representations we desired to make would be considered by Government on the satisfactory completion of the contracts in question. We expect to finish these particular contracts within the next few months.

In order to show the position as clearly as possible in the accounts, your Directors have felt compelled to provide in the profit and loss account for an estimated loss on Government contracts to the extent of \$310,000. This represents the situation on December 31 last as nearly as can be estimated. What the final outcome of these contracts will be is extremely difficult to forecast, and I can only say, at this stage, that I do not think it can be much worse and may be a little better.

I might add, in fairness to Mr. Gain, our Manager, that the engineer to whom I have referred, came to us with satisfactory testimonials and special qualifications for the work we required of him; which was that of estimating for, and taking full charge of, contracts for Public Works.

Barring these unfortunate contracts with the Government we have no reason to feel discouraged. The other work we now have in hand promises, on the whole, to yield satisfactory profits and had we not to carry this dead weight of losses, we could have shown a fair return on last year's business.

Our Franki piling system, (which, I may say in passing and notwithstanding what you may have read in the local papers, was the pioneer of this kind of piling in the Colony), promises to be a profitable source of income, for it has given great satisfaction wherever it has been adopted in preference to ordinary piling. We feel that there is a good future before it, as the system has special merits of which no other method of concrete piling, par-takes. Additional machinery has been ordered and is on the way out from Europe and, as working costs have been reduced, we are now in a position to tender on a competitive basis with any other system of piling.

All to our prospects in general, I feel I can say with confidence, "We have, of course, to

wipe off this deficit of \$185,000 odd before the Company can possibly reach a dividend-paying basis, but with the other work now in hand and in view, and with careful management, and the exercise of the strictest economy, I do not think it will be so very long before our accounts begin to show a balance on the right side. I said last year that we were then in better shape than six months previously, and I can say now that we are still better organized to-day for all kinds of construction work and, in particular, for our speciality which is reinforced concrete construction of all descriptions. Our plant, machinery, motor trucks, etc., are all in good condition and have been adequately written down in the books.

I now propose that the report and accounts as presented, be adopted, and when this has been seconded I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability, and questions thereon, that shareholders may wish to put.

Mr. Fung Tat-hang seconded the adoption of the report and this was carried.

Other formal business was the confirmation of the appointment of Father Robert as director and the re-election of Mr. J. W. Noble and Sir C. P. Chater as directors, this being carried on the proposition of Mr. Coulthart, seconded by Mr. A. A. Alves; also the re-appointment as auditors of Messrs. Lowe, Bingham and Matthews at a fee of \$800, proposed by Mr. Braga and seconded by Mr. Gain.

#### Questions.

Mr. J. P. Braga said:—Mr. Chairman, I gave notice last week that I would ask certain questions at this meeting. In my letter to the Secretary I stated that I would like to make it clear that I was not submitting my questions in any heckling spirit. I reiterate that assurance. On the other hand, I desire certain information and, in view of the fact that there are some who imagine that this Company must put up its shutters and, sooner or later, go out of business, I seek information so as to restore confidence in the Company. Personally, I do not share that pessimistic view, and should be glad to hear that my view has the endorsement of the Directorate. It is to be regretted that, even though the Company is now in the fourth year of its existence, it is not yet placed on a dividend-paying basis. I am aware of the unenviable conditions created for the present Directors, and far from wishing to make their difficult position more embarrassing, I hope the answers to my questions will have the effect of restoring public confidence in, and support of, the Company. We have heard a great deal about "combinations" and "rings" to keep up building and construction costs in Hongkong and there seems little doubt that such "rings" do exist. I should imagine, however, that the Hongkong Engineering & Construction Co. is just such a Company as would be a factor towards opposing such "rings." If for that reason alone, not to mention the fact that it is a local Company with Directors having large interests in Hongkong, the Company should look to the Government and the public for that measure of support to which its enterprise may fairly lay claim. My first question is—

#### Question.

1. (a) Seeing that the shares of the Company were over-subscribed and applicants were not allotted the full number of shares, what necessity was there for the payment of an Underwriting Commission?

#### Answer.

1. (a) The underwriting of the shares offered for public subscription was effected, as is customary, before the issue of the prospectus and the terms were duly published in that document.

#### Question.

1. (b) To whom was the Commission of \$9,000 paid and when?

#### Answer.

1. (b) The Commission was paid in accordance with paragraph (c) of the prospectus to the persons referred to therein, on the 13th November, 1922.

#### Question.

1. (c) What good reason (if any) exists for the sum of \$9,000 being written off the assets of the Company in the third year of its formation instead of after the first year?

#### Answer.

1. (c) Items of this description are usually recognised as "assets" to be written off out of the first available profits, but, in the circumstances, it was not considered that any good purpose would be served by continuing to show the amount as a separate item in the balance sheet. It is therefore included in the debit balance of the profit and loss account.

(Continued on Page 18.)



## PRINCE IN THE TROPICS.

### REPULSE SAILS FOR GOLD COAST.

### NEW HARBOUR WORKS.

His Royal Highness the First To Enter.

Having completed his visit to Sierra Leone, the Prince of Wales is off now to the Gold Coast, another of our West African colonies.

#### TIMELY ARRIVAL.

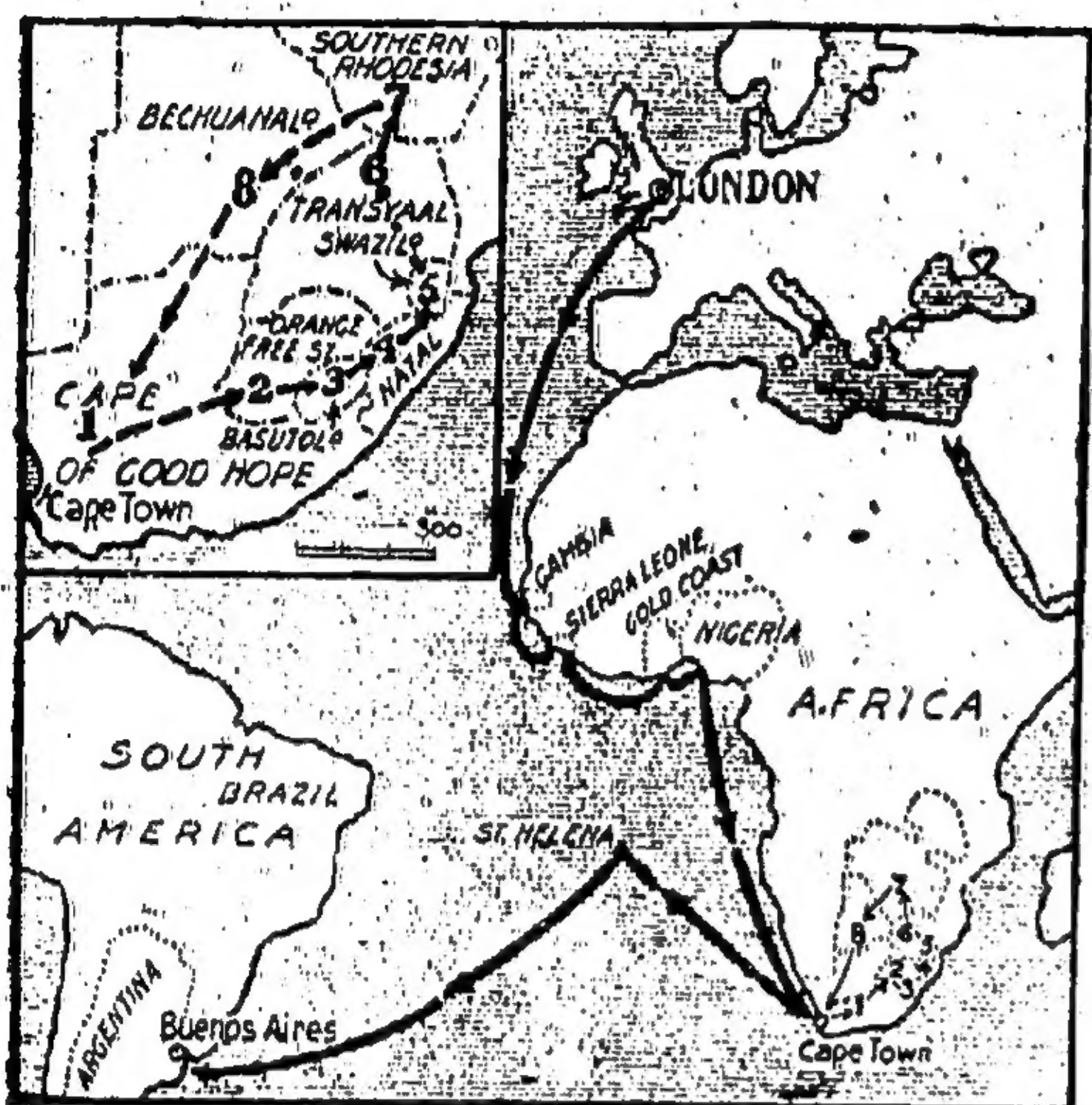
(Reuter's Service.)

Freetown, April 7.  
The Repulse has sailed for Takoradi on the Gold Coast. The Prince of Wales will be the first to enter the harbour which is not completed.  
The cost of the harbour will be £2,700,000.

stands: Axim, Elmina, Cape Coast Castle, Winneba, Accra, Christiansborg (old Danish fort, adjoining Accra, seat of Governor) and Keta.

There is cable connection with England and Capetown and regular steamers from London, Southampton, and Plymouth.  
The estimated area of the Colony is 15,000 square miles, and of the protectorate 24,000

#### WHERE THE PRINCE GOES NEXT.



Our map shows the Gold Coast which His Royal Highness is visiting next.

The Gold Coast is a British Crown Colony and protectorate in West Africa, forming part of Upper Guinea and including Ashanti.

The Gold Coast extends from Newton (W. of Cape Three Points) to Denu (E. of Cape St. Paul).

It is a monotonous tract of land, mostly flat and covered with immense forests and swamps. The rivers are partly navigable.

The climate is damp and oppressively hot, and is very unhealthy for Europeans.

The inhabitants comprise numerous negro tribes, their chief occupation being commerce.

Agriculture is the staple industry and the chief products and exports are palm-oil, gold, palm-kernels, india-rubber, kola-nut, cocoa, monkey skins, copra, ivory and timber.

The chief imports are textiles, hardware, spirits, and tobacco.

The whole region is more or less auriferous—hence the name of the colony. In past time large quantities of gold were exported, but the abolition of slavery caused the decline of the gold industry among the natives.

The great obstacles to European enterprise are the unhealthiness of the climate, and the difficulties of transport, as roads are absolutely wanting.

Silver, copper, and iron are also found. Diamonds were discovered in the Aboma valley in 1919.

There is a government botanical station at Aburi and an experimental cotton farm at Lalababo.

The chief towns and road.

#### FAMILY OF FORGERS.

FATHER AND DYING WIFE.

MONTREAL, April 7.  
Of the five brothers charged with counterfeiting the eldest has been sentenced to three years' jail and two others to six months. The two youngest have been released on suspended sentence. The father who was also implicated was released on parole to attend his wife's deathbed.  
[Mounted police last week carried out one of the biggest raids on counterfeiters on record. They arrested seven men and seized notes representing \$150,000 and uncompleted notes to the amount of half-a-million dollars.]

#### NEW PLANE SHIP.

\$45,000,000 VESSEL LAUNCHED.

(Reuter's American Service.)

#### NEW YORK, April 7.

The latest aeroplane carrier, Saratoga, has been launched at Camden, New Jersey.  
The ship has a displacement of 35,000 tons and carries 72 aeroplanes, of which 31 are bombers.  
She cost \$45,000,000.

## FRANCE'S CRISIS.

Finance Minister's Proposals.

COMING DEBATE.

THE ANXIETY OF PUBLIC OPINION.

(Reuter's Service.)

PARIS, April 7.

The preamble to M. Demombynes' finance bill admits the legal limit of the note issue has been exceeded this year, a practice rendered possible by the manipulation of various items of the weekly balance sheet of the Banque de France which must be terminated.

The Banque has demanded that the position between itself and the Treasury should be legally regularised.

The Government considers an increase in the note issue limit indispensable to the integrity of the Banque's credit and the healthy administration of the country's finances.

PENALTY FOR DEFAULT.

LATER.

M. Demombynes announced that the interest on the new perpetual rentes issuable to subscribers is a voluntary ten per cent. The capital tax has been fixed at three per cent.

The issue will be at par and not exempt from taxation. All are liable to income tax with the exception of wage earners. Those who do not subscribe a tenth part of their capital will be exceptionally taxed on the amount of their default. The subscription is payable quarterly for five years.

M. Demombynes summed up the measure as the maximum of option and the minimum of constraint.

A Bill embodying the proposals when tabled in the Chamber of Deputies to-day will be immediately referred to the Finance Committee for report. Hence it will not be debated before Thursday or Friday.

The Socialists are submitting to the committee a counter project providing for a ten per cent capital levy, but this is simply a Party demonstration. The Socialists are expected to vote for M. Demombynes' Bill.

LOSING NO TIME.

PARIS, April 7.

The Chamber of Deputies referred the Finance Bill to its Finance Committee for report and agreed to M. Demombynes' request to debate the measure to-morrow "in view of the anxiety of public opinion."

EARLIER CABLES.

PARIS, April 7.

The final details of M. Demombynes' proposals, the drafting of which was completed at three o'clock in the morning, provide for payments of the extraordinary voluntary levy to be spread over five years.

Taxpayers failing to make a general declaration for the purposes of the levy will be taxed on the basis of their income tax declaration. Commercial drafts will be accepted in payment.

Subscribers will receive perpetual Government bonds bearing interest at three and a half or four per cent.

It is estimated that the cancellation of Government securities, contributed as part of the levy, will reduce the Budget by six hundred million francs annually.

The cabinet has finally approved Demombynes' financial proposals—Reuter.

"CURIOUS STRATEGY."

SINGAPORE DEFENCES DELAY.

(Reuter's Service.)

LONDON, April 7.

In the House of Commons Commander Kenworthy (Liberal) asked a question with regard to the new fortifications at Singapore.

The Secretary of State for War, Sir L. Worthington Evans, referred to his reply of March 17.

Commander Kenworthy asked: Are we to understand that extensive alterations and enlargements to the dockyard are proceeding and that the fortifications are not being commenced at the same time?

Sir L. Worthington Evans replied: No, they are being considered.

Commander Kenworthy remarked: That is a curious form of strategy!

[In the House of Commons, replying to Commander Kenworthy, on March 17, Sir L. Worthington Evans said the question of the defences required to protect the Singapore base was still being considered by the Committee of Imperial Defence. It was impossible to make a statement at present with regard to the cost or the date of commencing work thereon. The question whether the present defences were sufficient or must be increased would depend on the committee's report.]

Tokyo, April 7.—The Japanese evacuated Russian Sakhalen on April 4, handing the administration over to the Soviet—Reuter.

## BACK TO SANITY.

BRITAIN'S SENSIBLE ACTION.

REPARATIONS ADJUSTMENT.

New System Which Will Mean Less Friction.

Another small step has been taken towards restoring international amity in war-torn Europe.

#### GERMAN GOOD FAITH.

(Reuter's Service.)

London, April 7.

The House of Commons unanimously passed a resolution moved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Winston Churchill, suspending the German Reparation Recovery Act of 1921 imposing a 25 per cent. levy on German imports into England and substituting an alternative method not involving payments by individual merchants without

prejudicing the rights of the British Government in respect of the Act.

Mr. Churchill said that the act had produced over £25,000,000 for the British Treasury.

The new arrangement was due to Germany's desire for a method more acceptable to her and to the fact that the levy owing to the revival of Anglo-German trade had latterly been producing more than the British share of the reparations.

The Government was satisfied that the German Government would co-operate loyally with the new system which would produce the same results as the levy with far less friction and disturbance to international trade.

The arrangement was a small step towards European appeasement and restoration.

Mr. William Graham (Labour) and Mr. Lloyd George (Liberal) approved the new arrangement.

The sole dissident was Sir Frederick Wise (Conservative) who asked whether the Dominions had been consulted with regard to the suspension of the levy.

The House of Lords carried without discussion a resolution similar to Mr. Churchill's.

#### NOT FOR HIM.

HINDENBURG EVADES POLITICS.

#### TOO OLD NOW.

NATIONALISTS MUST FIND OTHER CANDIDATE.

(Reuter's Service.)

BERLIN, April 7.

Despite the German Nationalists' desperate efforts, Marshal Von Hindenburg has declined to accept nomination for the Presidency.

He declares that he does not intend at this age to enter politics from which he has all his life held aloof.

His recommendation to the Nationalists to adopt Herr Jarres is likely to be adopted, but Jarres' prospects of beating Herr Marx on April 26 are considered remote.

It is understood that Hindenburg's refusal was influenced by the absence of support from the German People's Party.

Herr Stresemann, the Foreign Minister, who is one of the leaders, pointed out the disastrous impression such a candidacy would make in Europe.

Later the Nationalists despatched Admiral von Tirpitz to Hanover to try to induce Hindenburg to change his mind.

#### BELGIAN POLITICS.

SEVEN MORE SEATS FOR SOCIALISTS.

#### LIBERALS LOSE NINE.

(Reuter's Service.)

BRUSSELS, April 7.

The new Chamber will consist of Catholics, 77; Socialists, 24; Liberals, 5; Extreme Flemings, 2; Communists, 1; Independent.

The principal change in the Chamber compared with the previous Chamber consists of a Socialist gain of seven seats and a Liberal loss of nine.

#### GOOD FRIDAY.

COMPLETE NEWSPAPER HOLIDAY.

(Reuter's Service.)

LONDON, April 7.

No newspapers are being published in England on Good Friday.

#### \$5,000,000 AN OUNCE.

(Reuter's American Service.)

BALTIMORE, April 7.

A correspondent of the New York Times states that Doctor Vial, in his research report to the American Chemical Society, describes "Radon," a substance which, he states, "is 180,000 times more active than radium and costs five million dollars an ounce to produce, but is cheaper in use than radium owing to its increased activity."

#### TAKE WITH SWEETENED WATER.

Saves the babies, helps the grown-ups, comforts elderly people—that's Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy. Used for infantile cholera, sudden pain in stomach, griping cramps, nausea with protruding diarrhoea. For sale everywhere.



BRAZILIAN DISASTER.—The explosion of a mine in the harbor of Salvador, Bahia, on the night of April 4-5, 1925, has caused the death of 2,000 people and the destruction of property valued at \$1,000,000.

## STYLE WITH ECONOMY

A SPECIAL DELIVERY OF LIGHT STRAW

TRIMMED HATS

From \$8.50 Each

WE INVITE INSPECTION

LANE, CRAWFORD, LTD.

LADIES' SALON—PEDDER ST.

SPECIALITIES  
HARVEY'S BRISTOL MILK  
OLD GOLDEN SHERRY  
HARVEY'S BRISTOL CREAM  
FULL PALE SHERRY

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## LET US MOVE YOU

Our fleet of trucks will do it

EFFICIENTLY AND CHEAPLY.

LOW RATES

FIRST CLASS SERVICE

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## Cross Words Made Easy

By Drinking

Tuborg Beer

Purveyors To

The Royal Danish Court

The One and Only Danish Beer on the Market.

6 doz. pts.—\$18 duty paid.

4 doz. qts.—\$21

SOLE AGENTS—

GANDE, PRICE & CO., LTD.

WINE MERCHANTS

Tel. C. 135. Hongkong



## THE BUICK SIX.

Owners express surprise that a car so powerful and spirited as the **BUICK SIX** operates so smoothly and quietly. Such outstanding performance explains why the car is winning and holding the good will of all who buy it.

**HONGKONG & KOWLOON TAXICAB CO., LTD.**

33 & 35, Des Voeux Road Central.

WHEN BETTER AUTOMOBILES ARE BUILT BUICK WILL BUILD THEM.

### 9 TALENTED PERFORMERS

CLASSICAL JAZZ

at  
**THE STAR**

Starting Saturday, April 11th

THE  
**FLORADORA**

VAUDEVILLE COMPANY

9 TALENTED PERFORMERS

THEATRE ROYAL

TO-NIGHT at 9.15.

JAMES McGRATH, LTD.

Presents the famous "LONDON RECORD" REVUE Stars—  
**LEE WHITE & CLAY SMITH**

AND  
ENTIRE LONDON COMPANY

Including Miss LEE WHITE's famous **LITTLE PEACHES**,  
the prettiest Dancing Chorus seen in Hongkong for years.

TO-NIGHT at 9.15  
Another Lee White Personal Success  
**"BRAN PIE"**

**G. FALCONER & CO. (HONGKONG) LTD.**

WATCHMAKERS & JEWELLERS  
DIAMOND MERCHANTS  
Union Building (Opposite G.P.O.)

Agents for:—ADMIRALTY CHARTS  
ROSS'S BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES;  
KELVIN'S NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS,  
ENGLISH SILVERWARE, direct from Manufacturers.  
High Class English Jewellery.



**COCOANUT OIL**  
OF THE HIGHEST GRADE



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**THE HONGKONG OIL MILLS, LTD.**  
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## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

A bill designed to prevent tipping has been presented in the lower House of the Pennsylvania Legislature. A fine of \$50 would be imposed for conviction.

At St. John's Cathedral on Good Friday there will be the following services:—Litany and Ante Communion at 7.45 a.m. Matins and Address at 11 a.m. Three Hours' Service, 12 noon to 3 p.m., conducted by the Rev. G. H. Hewitt, R.N. Choral recital at 9.15 p.m. by an augmented choir.

Honour has just been done to the memory of one of the earliest French feminists, and a tablet has been affixed to the house, 151, rue de la Roquette, where Hubertine Auclert, the founderess of the Woman's Suffrage Society, lived for many years. Mme. Auclert was known for her devotion, during the siege of Paris in 1870, to the interests of those who were stricken. Six years later she created the woman's rights group. She was the first to refuse to pay her taxes on the ground that she had no part in voting them.

Those who fared to or from the Wembley Exhibition by bus last year will remember the spacious bus station terminus with its platforms and direction boards facilitating the finding and departure of one's bus. This is to have its effect in the construction of a new bus terminus at Victoria station. The busses are to be completely railed off from the taxis. There is to be a control tower from which the controller will regulate departures, and platforms are to be erected from which to board the different numbers. Victoria with its south coast and continental traffic is a very busy centre and some 3,000 busses pass daily through the station. When school terms begin, the jam of taxis filled with school boys and girls is often held stationary for a quarter of an hour or more while the queue slowly files into the station, to disgorge its impatient freight.

Belgium for its size and population, can boast of more bicycles than any other country in the world. One out of every nine men, women and children in Belgium owns a wheel, the official figures being 792,384 out of a population of a little over 7,000,000.

The probable elimination of horse drawn cabs from the streets of Berlin by the motor tax, has brought up the question of the future of the 1820 cab drivers of Berlin who to-day are far from pleased with the change that is coming over the city. The young men naturally become chauffeurs, but some older drivers seem unable to adjust themselves to the new vehicle. It has been suggested that two cabbies, an older and a younger one, club together and acquire an auto taxi between them in such a manner that the older man will attend to keeping the car properly cleaned, repaired, and disinfected, while the younger man does the driving.

Following the recent agitation over licensing bicycles in Shanghai, the Municipal Council has approved this action, which will become effective on May 1. The conditions regulating the matter provide that these will not be transferable without the consent of the Council; that only a bell shall be attached to a vehicle to give warning; that between sunset and sunrise a lighted lamp, giving a white light, shall be exhibited toward the front; that the licence plate shall be exposed in a conspicuous place; that no gratuities of any kind be given an employee of the Council. If the bicycle is hired out to another person, the rules provide that the licensee shall keep a register, open for inspection by the police, in which the name and address of the hirer shall be entered. In event of a breach of any of the conditions, the licence is subject to withdrawal or suspension or all or any part of the money deposited be forfeited.

A total of 49,808 barrels of apples were shipped from Halifax, Canada, to the English market during the week ending February 15, bringing the total for the season up to 962,544. It is anticipated that by the end of the month shipments will be well over the million-barrel mark.

One of life's little ironies: Local Scottish footballers have been striving, for 14 years, to win the International soccer trophy, says the North China Daily News. A couple of weeks ago they were at last successful, but the cup, a massive piece of silver, is missing! Has anybody seen it?

Hongkong is not alone in its agitation over rent restriction. All Vienna is concerned as to whether or not the Rent Restriction Act is to be revised. The landlord to-day can charge only 800 to 2,000 times the pre-war rent in paper crowns, that is, approximately, one-seventh of the actual rent. Food and clothes have, however, advanced to a level of 14,000 times the pre-war prices. At a meeting of the "House Owners" the fact was brought out that the coalition group in Parliament is endeavouring to fix the rent ratio at 4,000 to 6,000 times the pre-war cost in paper crowns. The chairman of this House Owners Union pointed out that it would cause a demand for a general rise of wages of 10 per cent. and he urged that this would necessitate an increment in the budget. The chairman further stated that such an increase of rents would yield from Vienna an additional 150,000,000 gold crowns yearly in taxes. The Social Democrats, on the other hand, who were responsible for the original law, oppose the change on the grounds that labour would be compelled to demand an increase of 25 per cent. in wages, a step which Austrian industries could not meet and at the same time hope to compete with foreign industries.

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Mr. R. H. Skelton left for Manila yesterday by the President Jackson.

Major G. F. S. Tuke, D.S.O., R.A., has been promoted Lieutenant. 2nd Lieut. G. L. Dolman, Royal Regiment, has been promoted Lieut.

It is officially announced that "the Hongkong Mule Corps" has been formed comprising a British subaltern and six other ranks, 114 Indians, 200 mules and 4 horses.

Command Orders announce that the following officers have been taken on the strength, having arrived in Hongkong on the s.s. Macedonia:—Lt.-Col. E. E. B. Mackintosh, D.S.O., R.E., Lieut. D. M. Ryerfort, R.E., 2nd Lieut. M. E. B. Coates and 2nd Lieut. C. H. Turner of the 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.

In mail week, a Home correspondent writes thus concerning Mr. Ho Kom-tong of Hongkong:—One of the most interesting names in the last "Gazette" was that of Mr. Kong Ho Kom Tong, who was made an Honorary Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. It was a well-deserved honour, for this very interesting Eastern philanthropist has devoted an enormous amount of attention to the teaching and encouragement of first aid and clinics where the poor can obtain hospital comforts. Mr. Ho was a familiar figure in London last year when he came over for the Wembley Exhibition and I hear that he may be expected again this spring.

Passengers departing for Europe to-day per s.s. Kashima Maru include: Mrs. D. Beale, whose outstanding success in the part of St. Joan in the recent A.D.C. production, is still fresh in the memory of the Colony's playgoers and who goes to London. Mr. R. A. C. North, of the Secretariat for Chinese Affairs, accompanied by Miss North, his sister and Miss McElderry. Others are Mr. J. H. B. Nihill, of the Supreme Court, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Gloyd and Mr. P. Plagne of the China Sugar Refinery on retirement. Mr. and Mrs. Lightburn of the Asiatic Petroleum Co. Mr. and Mrs. Spaulding of Canton. Mrs. A. Astrosa, wife of the Chilean Consul in Hongkong. Mr. R. McKellar and Mr. F. J. Sarney of the China Sugar Refinery on leave. Mr. J. Evans, and the Rev. Fr. C. Flumyben.

Contributions to the annual collection for Dr. Bardard's Homes, should be sent to Lady Pollock at 367, The Peak.

Lieut. A. W. Allcock, R.A., assumed the duties of Armament Officer, Royal Artillery, Hongkong, vice Captain P. W. N. Gairner, R.A., who has gone Home on sick leave.

The promotion of Major of Captain J. E. Chippindall, M.C., of the Royal Engineers, Hongkong, has been "gazetted." Major Chippindall is one of the best Sapper sportsmen in the Colony.

The Ladies' National Clubs Limited have invited Sir Jan Hamilton to a special club dinner as the most effective reply to his recent strictures on the management of women's clubs in general, which evoked a good deal of unfavourable comment in the press. "We will show him how women cater at 2s. 6d. per head," said Miss Irene Manby, the Secretary.

The Antenor which left yesterday for London carried a full complement of passengers, including Sir Francis and Lady Aglen, Dr. and Mrs. Lindsay Woods (of Amoy), Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Sim, Mr. and Mrs. W. Adamson, Mr. J. D. H. Crawford, Mrs. Jack, Mr. A. McKirdy, Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Hazel, Mr. and Mrs. P. W. A. Wilkie, and Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Wells.

L. Kraft, treasurer of the International Council of Religious Education, Chicago, proposed to meeting that Charles Evans Hughes, Secretary of State, be offered the job of head of the organization at a \$50,000 a year salary. "If the moving picture industry can pay Will Hays a large salary to straighten out some of its problems, why cannot the International Council of Religious Education employ a man like Secretary Hughes for a similar task?" Mr. Kraft asked.

The annual report of the Foreign Women's Home in Shanghai for 1924 reviews the events of the year and gives the treasurer's report which shows a healthy state of affairs. The Committee for 1924 consists of the following: Mrs. Symons, President; Mrs. Lucy Vice President; Mrs. Peebles Hon. Recording Secretary; Mrs. Hilton-Johnson, Hon. Corresponding Secy; Mrs. Main, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs. Harrison, King; Mrs. Hodges, Mrs. P. L. Knight, Mrs. Lees Smith, Mrs. McKellar, Mrs. Marples, Dr. Margaret Bole, Mrs. Rutherford.

The committee of the Dickens Fellowship announce, with regret, that Mr. Pett Ridge has been compelled, under medical advice, to resign the presidency of the Fellowship. At the request of the council, Sir Walter Lawrence has consented to take over the duties of president for the remainder of Mr. Pett Ridge's term of office.

Referring to Mr. Henry Ford's selection of 21 names of the most famous men in history to be inscribed on the facade of the new Ford engineering laboratory in Dearborn, it is only fair to state that Mr. Ford has proved cosmopolitan in his choice. The first three names on the list are respectively English, French, and Italian, while of the 21 men immortalised nine are American and 12 of other nationalities.

Queen Helena of Italy has established a new court dress for her ladies in waiting. Until now court ladies wore trains of breadth, length and colour according to taste. Now by order of the Queen all ladies have to wear long velvet trains in the azure blue livery to the House of Savoy with a gold braid border. It is ninety centimeters broad falling from the shoulders and one and a half meters long. The Queen has also fixed occasions when this train is to be worn.

The New York Newspaper Pressman's Union was spared the necessity of suspending its star member, the Prince of Wales, when a cheque for \$7, representing two months' dues, was received from him. The union rules provide for suspension of a member who fails to pay dues every two months. Had he not paid, he would have been barred from playing the trade in any union pressroom there. When he was made a member of the union last summer, he paid his dues in advance to January 1.

"By their plaudits ye shall know them." So remarked a shrewd observer of character as the Countess of Oxford, at the first night of "Hamlet," at the Haymarket Theatre, leaned out of her box, clapping so vigorously that she seemed in danger of splitting her gloves. The new Earl, on the other hand, merely beamed graciously and thumped the edge of the box with his fist. Mr. Bernard Shaw, who looked neither so right nor so left, kept his hands firmly folded in his lap. Mr. Arnold Bennett clapped irregularly and spent the rest of the time yawning with his gorgeous forelock.

## ARMSTRONG SIDDELEY

"FOUR 14"

THE ALL BRITISH  
TOURING CAR.

FIRST COST

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CHINA BUILDING.

QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

## LOCAL SPORT.

TREVESSA TROPHY.

RACE TO BE HELD END  
OF THIS MONTH.

It has been decided to hold the third of the bi-annual ships' lifeboats contests for the Trevesa Trophy, at the end of this month under the auspices of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club.

A definite date has not been fixed. The competition is held in memory of the ship's company of the Trevesa who had a trying ordeal in open boats after the ship was abandoned.

## LOCAL HOCKEY.

LAST MATCHES OF THE  
SEASON.

The following have been selected to represent the H.K.H.C. against the H.K.S. Battalion, R.A., on the Marina ground at 5.15 p.m. this evening:—P. W. F. Mills, A. P. T. Farquharson, C. L. R. Bether, A. S. Hett, Rev. E. L. Martin, A. A. Dand, G. P. Lammert, G. B. Hett, W. Woodward (captain), B. D. Evans and G. R. Vallack. The same side will represent the Club against the United Services to-morrow at 5.15 p.m., also on the Marina ground. Should any of those chosen be unable to play in either game they are requested to notify Mr. P. W. F. Mills (Central 36) as early as possible.

## BILLIARDS TOURNEY.

GOOD MATCH AT V.R.C.  
TO-NIGHT.

At the V.R.C. last night, E. W. Spry defeated Wong Po-hong in the first of the third round ties in the billiards championship and thus enters the semi-final. The score was 800 points to 678. Spry made a break of 40 and Wong's highest was 27.

To-night, P. S. Leung meets S. C. Kwok, also in the third round and the winner will play Spry in the semi-final. Leung is a former runner-up and Kwok has already appeared a previous semi-final. An excellent match is anticipated. Play begins at 6 p.m. and will be in two sessions.

## TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENT.

SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE,  
HONGKONG.

It is proposed to hold a luncheon on ST. GEORGE'S DAY, THURSDAY, 23rd April, which it is hoped Members and their Ladies will attend. Fuller particulars will be published later.  
Hongkong, 8th April, 1925.

**ROXOR**

## TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES

HELP THE CHILDREN

Will you kindly send your Contributions for the Annual Collection to LADY POLLOCK 367, Peak.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1925.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

## NOTICE.

ON GOOD FRIDAY, the 10th Instant, and EASTER MONDAY, the 13th Instant, all departments will be CLOSED.

On those days The Hongkong Dispensary will be opened for dispensing prescriptions from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

On SATURDAY, the 11th Instant, all departments will be open as usual.  
Hongkong, 7th April, 1925.

## ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

OWING to very heavy local rain at Fanning the NEW COURSE will be closed from to-day. Should it be possible to open this Course on Sunday or Monday notices will be posted on usual notice boards.

While NEW COURSE is closed ladies may play on the OLD COURSE starting after men have driven off and giving way to Men's games.

By Order,  
E. D. MATTHEWS,  
Secretary, R.H.K.G.C.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1925.

THE EAST ASIATIC CO., LTD.,  
COPENHAGEN.

The M/S "JAVA"

having arrived, Consignees of cargo are hereby informed that all goods are being landed and placed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extraordinary Godowns of the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd., where delivery can be obtained as soon as the goods are landed. No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godowns, and all goods remaining undelivered after the 15th of April, 1925, 4 p.m. will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined by Messrs. Anderson & Arbo on the 14th of April, 1925, at 10 a.m.

All claims against the vessel must be presented to the Underwriter before the 18th of April, 1925, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected. Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JOHN MANNERS & CO., LTD., Agents.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1925.

## A GOOD LINIMENT.

Rob Chamberlain's Pain-Balm on the painful spots. It is penetrating, starts up the circulation which carries the congestion and pressure that causes the pain. That is how it helps rheumatism, lumbago, backache, neuralgia, swollen, aching joints and muscles. Sold and recommended everywhere.



**"MAGIC TRANSFORMATION."**

(Continued from page 1.)

**Capital.**

Turning to the balance sheet, you will observe that during the year 1924 the Company's issued capital was increased by 381,972 shares. This was occasioned by the issue of shares at par in accordance with the offer to shareholders of one "new" share for each one "old" share then held by them, and by the issue of 10,000 shares credited as fully paid-up in part consideration for the purchase of 16 to 16d, Des Vaux Road Central, Hongkong, to which I shall refer later. The balance of our authorised capital remaining unissued now consists of 243,028 shares in which connection it appears opportune for me to make mention of the fact that your Board propose to issue as many of the shares comprising this balance as will be required to satisfy an offer, shortly to be made, to shareholders, of three further shares for every ten shares held in the present issued capital. Furthermore, it is proposed on this occasion to secure a small premium for the benefit of the Company; to this, I venture to think, shareholders cannot reasonably take exception, more especially in view of the fact that the issue of share for share last year was made at par and thus placed shareholders in an exceedingly favourable position.

Consequently, it is the intention of your Board to offer these further shares at \$12.50, that is to say at a premium of \$2.50 per share payable as to \$7.50 on the 30th June and \$5 on the 30th September next. In due course notice will be given to shareholders in relation to this proposed issue and the terms of the offer vis-a-vis the holdings in the present subscribed capital of the Company.

**The Majestic.**

The outstanding feature in the development of our business during the year under review, was undoubtedly the opening of the Majestic Hotel in Shanghai on the 1st November last, and I am pleased to be able to inform you that the measure of patronage extended to that establishment since its inception has already been such as to justify the action of your Board in acquiring the property and converting the main building for the purposes of an hotel. By the inauguration of the Majestic Hotel, we have embarked upon a project which, I have no doubt, will, in course of time, substantially augment the revenue of the Company by reason of the extensive nature of the well laid-out grounds and the central location of this valuable property enabling us to render to our patrons service of the highest quality in an atmosphere of equal comfort that cannot fail to prove attractive and which it would be exceedingly difficult to surpass elsewhere. At present the limited bedroom accommodation at our disposal has resulted in the management having been reluctantly compelled to turn away numerous applications in respect of reservations. This alone bears ample testimony to the fact that an establishment of this nature fulfils a long-felt want in Shanghai for a first-class residential hotel. It is therefore the intention of your Board to increase the accommodation from time to time as opportunities permit, in pursuance of the Company's policy of improvement whereby, in other instances, in substitution for the more or less out-of-date accommodation now offered by some of our establishments, additions will be made on lines embodying modern ideas of hotel construction.

The grounds of the Majestic afford ample space for extensions to the Hotel and we are therefore in an excellent position to enlarge the premises as the situation demands, and, as the land is already owned by the Company, the expenditure to be faced in this connection would be that of the buildings only. By the purchase of this property, we have not only safeguarded our interests in the rapidly developing Western District of Shanghai—the situation being excellent and sufficiently removed from the congestion and noise of the city to be suitable for residential purposes and yet within easy access of the shopping and business centre—but have acquired a landed asset that will show an enhanced valuation year by year, as evidenced by prices recently paid in respect of properties in that vicinity. I feel that it is unnecessary to refer to the restaurant and ball-room as doubtless shareholders will have perused with interest the very favourable comments thereon in the press reports in regard to the opening of the Majestic Hotel, and also in connection with various public functions since held at that establishment.

**The Palace Hotel.**

Improvements have also been effected in the other establishments under our management in Shanghai with a view to modernising them—this being particularly necessary owing to the increasing popularity of our catering departments as shown by the volume of patronage they are receiving. As you are doubtless aware, the property comprising the Palace Hotel in Shanghai (situated at the junction of The Bund and Nanking Road) was held under lease by The Shanghai Hotels, Ltd. for a period of fifty years from 1906. I am pleased to be able to inform you that, due to the lengthy unexpired period of the lease in question, your Board have recently been enabled to complete arrangements for the acquisition of the reversionary interest at the reasonable figure of \$62,500, and having in mind that a recent independent assessment appraised the value of the land alone at \$1,767,000, the purchase is one showing a not inconsiderable benefit to the Company, more especially in view of the fact that it will be necessary within the next ten or fifteen years to consider reconstruction of the Palace Hotel. When that time arrives it will be a source of satisfaction to us to be in a position to embark upon this work in the knowledge that the land is owned by the Company; moreover we should not be faced with the heavy amortization allocations that would otherwise be necessary under the lease which would then have a residual unexpired life of merely fifteen to twenty years. I am pleased to be able to inform you that the purchase of the Palace Hotel property now completes the ownership by the Company of all the sites upon which its hotels are situated or are under construction.

During the year 1924 we paid the Government for the site of the Peninsula Hotel at Kowloon, and satisfied the balance of the purchase price of the site acquired in connection with the proposed construction of the Canton Hotel on the Shamen. We also paid off a mortgage for two lakhs on our Repulse Bay property.

**Development in Hongkong.**

Turning to Hongkong, I desire to point out that although progress upon the construction of the Peninsula Hotel was, in the initial stages, somewhat slow (since it was necessary to sink some 600 piles and, as is inevitable with foundation work, a considerable period had to elapse during which there was little to show although much spade work was being undertaken), nevertheless it may interest you to know that the system of Franki piling operated by the Hongkong Engineering & Construction Co., has not only proved exceedingly satisfactory, but appears to be particularly well suited to underground work of this description where it is necessary to construct extensive foundations on reclaimed land.

The contract for the construction of the framework of the Peninsula Hotel was placed with Messrs. Trollope & Colls (Far East), Ltd., in whose hands the work is proceeding very satisfactorily and rapid progress is being made. Our architects, the Hongkong Realty & Trust Company, also have the other matters essential to such an undertaking well in hand, and your Board have every reason to hope that the establishment will be completed and ready for occupation by the end of the third quarter of 1926. At this juncture it may not be inopportune for me to point out that in the construction of large establishments of the type of the Peninsula Hotel, the Company is necessarily called upon to effect payments against contractors' certificates involving heavy sums for which there cannot be any return until the buildings are actually open to the public.

Upon completion of the Peninsula Hotel at Kowloon we shall be better able to give practical consideration to the reconstruction of the northern block of the Hongkong Hotel, as referred to in my remarks from this chair a year ago. In order to safeguard the position in view of this contemplated reconstruction of the northern block, which is now approaching an age of forty years, your Board availed themselves of the opportunity of purchasing on June 30 last at a reasonable figure (subject to a mortgage of \$556,406.25) the buildings known as 16 to 16d, Des Vaux Road Central, adjoining the Hotel. Part of the purchase consideration was 10,000 shares of this Company issued as fully paid-up, as mentioned in my remarks with reference to our issued capital. By the acquisition of this additional property, it will be possible to reconstruct the northern portion of the Hongkong Hotel in sections, and thus obviate the disruption of our catering business that would be consequent upon complete closing down. Such a consideration is naturally a very important factor, especially when it is borne in mind that our business in

respect of the service of meals is increasing yearly and that with the opening of the Peninsula Hotel it is inevitable that a greater number of mid-day meals will require to be served in our centrally located establishment.

Whilst on the subject of construction, I would point out that we are adding a new wing comprising sixty rooms, to the Repulse Bay Hotel in order to cope with the increasing demand for residential accommodation in that establishment, and it is expected that these rooms will be available for occupation in the last quarter of the current year.

The business conducted by our Garage Department has shown steady progress, notwithstanding the fact that owing to the hitherto limited accommodation at our disposal for Garage purposes and for the general repair and upkeep of cars, we have been compelled to turn away business which otherwise would have increased the turnover in this branch of our activities. I am pleased to be able to report, however, that the new Garage under construction at Happy Valley, which will be capable of housing 150 cars and will provide for up-to-date body-building, repair and paint shops, will be available at the end of the current month, thus placing our Company in a position to render service to the motoring public on a scale hitherto unattempted in Hongkong, although urgently called for by reason of the rapid increase in the number of cars now licensed for use in the Colony.

**Canton.**

I must not omit to make mention of the position regarding the proposed Canton Hotel on the Shamen. In this case I am unable to report progress in construction, for, owing to the many difficulties, generally arising out of the disturbed state of Canton—troubled as it has been with strife between rival military and political parties—your Board have not considered it prudent at this juncture to push ahead with construction. When the situation clears, as we all sincerely trust it soon will, and normal conditions of business and travel return, then we shall be ready to proceed with more hope of success to our enterprise than would at the moment appear probable. In this connection it is somewhat reassuring to note that after the lapse of nearly two years, the train service to Canton has now been resumed and that it may shortly be possible for the authorities to offer the railway facilities the public previously enjoyed.

**Peking.**

In July and August last year we completed arrangements for the closer co-operation of this Company with the Grand Hotel des Wagons-Lits, Ltd., and, as a result of meetings held in Peking for that purpose, special resolutions were passed and duly confirmed by that Company for the transfer of its registered office to Hongkong. In view of the advisability of conserving its cash resources, the dividend from the Wagons-Lits Company declared during the year was less than that declared for 1923—otherwise, of course, the sum shown in our profit and loss account for the year ended on December 31, 1924, under the heading of "Dividends on Investments" would have been proportionately greater. You will notice, by the way, that during the past year we considerably increased the Company's holding of shares in the Grand Hotel des Wagons-Lits, Ltd., by taking advantage of opportunities that presented themselves for securing at reasonable prices a stronger interest in that Company, the cost of our holding at December 31, 1924, being \$493,322.85 as against \$267,517.66 at the end of 1923.

**The General Situation.**

There is, I think, nothing else to which I can usefully draw particular attention. I must, however, mention that the past year has been one of exceptional difficulties and many disappointments. At the general meeting held last year, I made reference to the detrimental effect of the Linchun affair, and the terrible earthquake in Japan upon our "transient" business. The apprehensions then engendered were not allayed in 1924, and the balance to the credit of working account for 1924 is, in round figures, two lakhs less than the balance for the preceding year, being \$1,381,937.37 for 1924 as against \$1,582,513.54 for 1923. This decrease I attribute chiefly to the fact that business (and more particularly, do I refer to North China) was subjected during the year under review to many interruptions and uncertainties, firstly by the floods which seriously hindered railway communications between Shanghai and North China, and then by the internecine strife which resulted for a time in the disorganisation of railway traffic. But apart from the detrimental effect upon our business generally, it was more particularly in

connection with independent travel that the consequences of hostilities in China reflected upon our earnings, for it is, as you know, to that source that we look for our more profitable support. The reports—at times exaggerated and inaccurate—that permeated through to Europe and America, naturally had the effect of considerably curtailing travel to the Far East in the autumn of last year and the spring of this, and also produced far reaching and detrimental effects in other directions. Needless to say, we, in common with the steamship companies operating on the Pacific route, do what we can to allay the apprehensions aroused by reports of this nature, and I feel confident that when traders and the travelling public abroad realise the comparative immunity from danger to life and property that obtains in the cities of importance in China, we may reasonably anticipate that there will be a return to the steady travel of pre-war days, and thereby a large increase in the volume of business passing to the benefit of this Company and all concerns interested in the prosperity of commercial operations in China. Nevertheless, in spite of the adverse conditions affecting all business in 1924, our profit and loss account was able to show a profit for the year of nearly eight lakhs, and I think it will be conceded without question that this result in such circumstances bears striking testimony to the stability of our Company's position and the soundness of its business. I must ask you to bear with me, however, if I point out that such a result as that for the past year was obtained only by the most careful handling of the various departments of our business and by the consideration of ways and means to effect economical working and the exploration of likely avenues of profitable development.

**The Staff.**

In this connection I cannot speak too highly of the services of the staff, both foreign and Chinese, many of whom perform their duties in positions that call for long hours and hard work but are sometimes liable to be overlooked so long as the routine of the Hotel's business pursues the even tenor of its way. To the executive personnel I would take this opportunity of expressing the thanks of the Board, and of myself as your Managing Director, in particular, for the growing share of the work and responsibility which they have undertaken in the conduct of the multitudinous affairs of the Company. I should inform you that Mr. P. H. Suckling, who was until recently the Secretary of the Company, has now been appointed Manager of our business in Shanghai, and that Mr. J. Bartholomew has recently joined our service to carry out the duties of Secretary, which appointments will thus in time relieve your Assistant General Manager and myself of much of the mass of minutiae involved in the conduct of the Company's affairs, for, with the growth of the concern involving as it does assets approximating 20,000,000 of dollars mainly in widely distributed properties, it becomes increasingly necessary for us to devote particular attention to questions of policy, finance and the development of the earning powers of our undertaking.

As mentioned in the report attached to the printed accounts, the usual bonus of one month's wages was paid to our Chinese staffs at Chinese New Year, and I feel sure that you will not only be pleased to confirm this but also the vote of ten per cent. on their salaries to the foreign staff as a bonus in respect of the past year.

Before concluding my remarks, I wish to avail myself of this opportunity of expressing the thanks of the Board—and, I feel sure I may say, of the shareholders—to the gentlemen who constitute our Advisory Committee in Shanghai. During the past year Mr. P. W. Massey joined the Committee in Shanghai, and Mr. G. F. Wright and Mr. F. N. Matthews, for business reasons, resigned their seats. Our thanks are also due to the two latter gentlemen for their interest in the welfare of the Company, particularly so in view of the fact that this Company's amalgamation with the Shanghai Company necessitated a great deal of work in the early part of the year. Mr. Matthews is, unfortunately, suffering at present from ill-health, and we sincerely wish him a speedy recovery.

I now beg formally to propose that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed, that a dividend of sixty cents per share on the 756,972 shares forming the issued capital of this Company be declared as final dividend in respect of the financial year ended on December 31, 1924, and that the balance of \$119,282.12 be carried forward to the credit of 1925 account. When that proposal has been seconded I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions

arising on the report and accounts, and to furnish any explanations with reference thereto that may be desired.

**SECONDOR'S SPEECH.**

In seconding the adoption of the report and accounts, Mr. Joseph Gould said: "Our Chairman might have dispensed with the concluding part of his speech about answering questions or furnishing explanations, as the statement placed before us is so full and precise and gives us information on such a generous scale that even the most carping critic among us cannot surely desire to seek further information."

There are, however, some outstanding features in the speech to which I should like to direct your special attention. We have been told, for instance, the welcome news that we are now the actual Owners of the Palace Hotel in Shanghai, and not mere Leaseholders. We have also been told that the Majestic, far from being the white elephant it has been reported to be, has had to turn away customers. Then we have heard the equally welcome news that the Peninsula Hotel will at no distant date open its doors for business. Finally, we have the gratifying information that when the time arrives for the Northern Block to be reconstructed, provision has been made for the catering department (which, as the Chairman has just told us, forms an important part of our business) to be carried on without curtailment. These are only a few of the things achieved, requiring as they did most careful forethought, calculations and organising power of the highest order.

Gentlemen, we have come to look for these qualities in our Managing Director as a matter of course, but I wonder how many of you realise the stupendous uphill work he has had to perform before he could bring our undertaking to its present position of pre-eminence, possessing a chain of the most magnificent Hotels East of Suez, not inappreciable the Gordon Hotels of the Far East. I, for one, can speak from personal knowledge, having lived in the Hongkong Hotel for more than a quarter of a century, and when I recall what that Hotel was at the time Mr. Taggart took over its management (between ourselves it was no better than a Second-rate Boarding House) and what we are proud to be the Proprietors of to-day, it is not progressive change I see but magical transformation.

Is it any wonder, then, that the mere rumour, happily unfounded, as we know, and I hope we shall have official reassurance from the chair of that of a contemplated change in the Managing Directorship should have caused so much alarm among a large body of Shareholders?

Gentlemen, with the same unflinching vision to guide our great undertaking, we may look forward to even greater successes in the future than has already been achieved.

I have much pleasure in seconding the Resolution put from the chair.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPLY.**

The Chairman in acknowledging the remarks said that the secondor had placed him in rather a delicate position by references to himself. However, he wished to thank Mr. Gould for the kindly spirit, promptness of the remarks and in answer to the question regarding a change in the management he hastened to assure shareholders that such a change was exceedingly remote.

Neither had there been any such matter under consideration (hear hear). He might say in this connection that it would reflect very poorly on the Board of Directors, bearing in mind the magnitude of the undertaking, if they had not made provision for continuity in the conducting of the Company's affairs.

As Managing Director he could assure them that were he to sever his connection with the Company they had a younger generation coming along ready to carry on the management on similar if not better lines than before.

There being no further questions, said the Chairman, the next business, Gentlemen, is the confirmation of the appointment of the Hon. Mr. C. Montague Ede as a Director, and the re-election of Mr. E. M. Raymond to the Board of this Company.

Mr. Ede, unfortunately, is unable to be present to-day, as he has for some weeks past been confined to his house through indisposition. We trust, however, that he will soon be restored to good health, and in the near future be able to take up again an active interest in the proceedings of the Company.

The confirmation and re-election was proposed by Mr. J. T. Bagram, seconded by Mr. L. A. Tobias, and carried.

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COL. JOHN COOLIDGE (Right) and son.

Colonel John Coolidge, father of America's President made a twelve-mile trip by sleigh from his home at Plymouth, Vermont to Ludlow, Vermont, where the nearest railroad station is located, to be present in Washington on March 4 for the inauguration of Calvin Coolidge.



This photograph shows Mr. W. Weinschenk, wealthy art connoisseur from whom thieves recently stole rare paintings and lacus valued at \$20,000 while he was away from home.



Miss Ethel Corrier, daughter of Rev. H. J. Corrier, rector at Radnage, England, has worked out, with her father, a new invention for speeding up transmission along ocean cable lines. All the experiments were made in a little laboratory in the parsonage.

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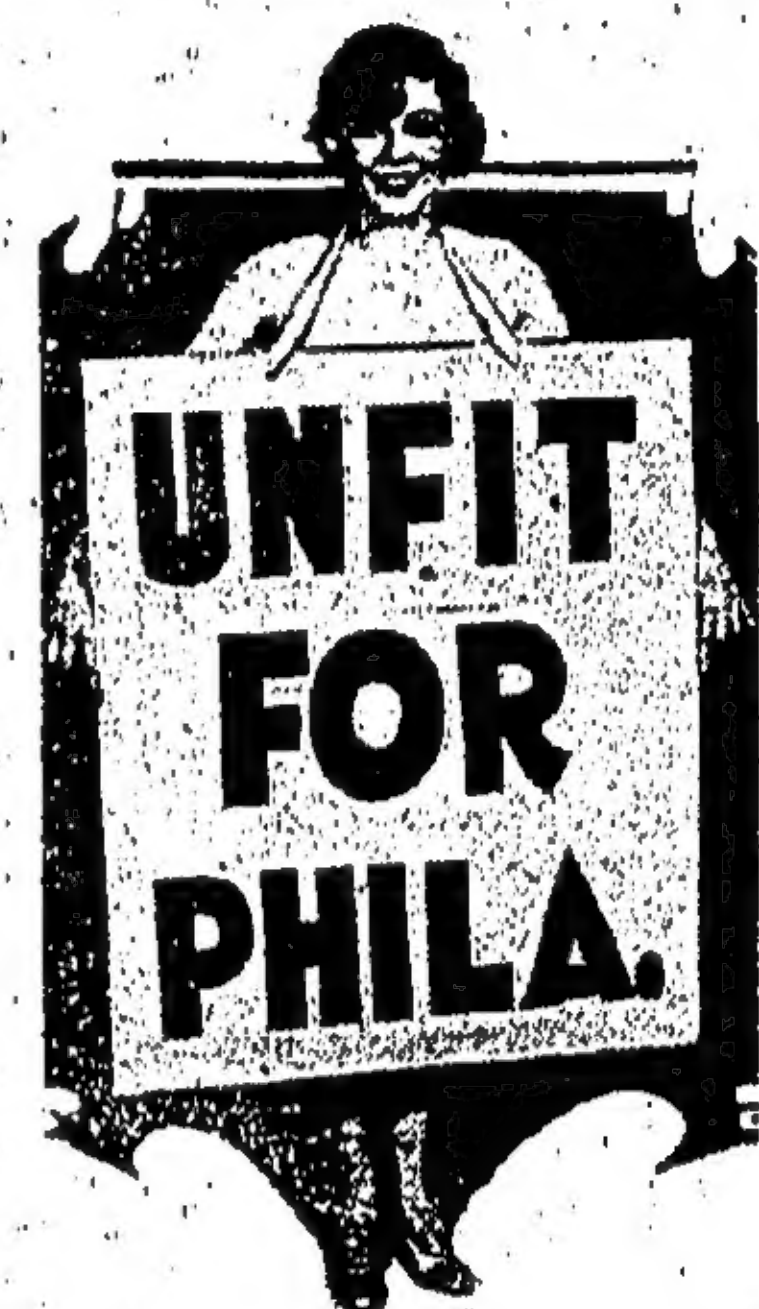


Kermit Roosevelt, youngest living son of the late President Roosevelt, is shown here with his new infant son, who has been christened Dirk, which is the Dutch name for Theodore.



An eloquent "woof woof" was vouchsafed by "Pete," valuable retriever, when his owner asked his pet to take the witness stand in the police court and "testify" against a man.

### Censored.



KATHRYN RAY.

Miss Kathryn Ray, who won fame as a dancer in a New York musical production, was reprimanded by Philadelphia authorities for her scanty attire when she visited the Quaker City. She chose this sarcastic way of "covering up" following the edict of the censor.



DEEP-SEA DIVER'S TORCH.

A new deep-sea torch that cuts through one and one-half inches of solid steel, in 100 feet of water, has been perfected and is being tested. A diver is shown using the new invention, which is expected to simplify greatly the work of deep-sea divers.



DR. HANS LUTHER.

Dr. Hans Luther, Premier of Germany, has assumed the post of President pro tem.



WANG HSIUAN TUNG & A. B. HOUGHTON.

President Ebert, of Germany, died from an operation for appendicitis, performed in a Berlin hospital. Leon Trotsky, deposed Soviet war commissar, will probably be appointed Russian Ambassador to Japan. President Coolidge has nominated A. B. Houghton, American Ambassador to Germany, to be Ambassador to Great Britain. Hsuan Tung, deposed boy Emperor of China, has fled from the Japanese Legation in Peking and gone to Tientsin.

### BRINGING UP FATHER.

